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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, our refuge and strength, continue to shower Your blessings upon humanity. Turn sorrow into gladness, doubt into faith, and despair into hope.

May our Senators use all the circumstances of their lives to produce fruits of integrity. Lord, let them use disappointment as material for patience, danger as material for courage, praise as material for humility, and pain as material for perseverance. Guide their thinking as You bind them together in unity, for You, O God, are peace in our pressure, guidance in our confusion, and hope in our helplessness.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

KEEP STUDENT LOANS AFFORDABLE ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 124, S. 1238, the student loan bill offered by Senator REED of Rhode Island.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1238) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the current reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans for 1 year, to modify required distribution rules for pension plans, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 5 p.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Gregory Phillips of Wyoming to be U.S. circuit judge for the Tenth Circuit. At 5:30 p.m. this evening there will be a rollcall vote on confirmation of the Phillips nomination.

PASSING BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. I welcome back the Presiding Officer, the President pro tempore of the Senate. I hope he and all of my colleagues had a restful and productive week with the instate work that was done during the 10 days we were gone.

It was a pleasure to meet and spend time with my constituents in Nevada over the break and with my family. I had a wonderful time with my family. Four of my children were there—actually, five were there for a short period of time, all five of them. We had a wonderful Fourth of July at my son's home. Everyone was there—neighbors. There was a great party. My grandson set off the fireworks. I am not going to ask where he got them, but there were a lot of fireworks and there was a lot of fun. It was a real celebration.

Everywhere I went I saw immense enthusiasm for this historic bipartisan immigration reform bill we passed before the Fourth of July. Often I heard how pleased Nevadans were to finally see bipartisanship in the Senate. They saw bipartisanship blossom. This has happened far too rarely in recent years. Americans of all political stripes are united behind the need for common-sense reform. Even a large majority of Republicans believes immigration reform will be good for the economy and good for national security.

As everyone here knows, I don't often tout the accomplishments of President Bush—Bush No. 2—but I really appreciate what he did at the first public event at his new library in Texas. It was an event honoring into our country new immigrants to become citizens. After the event, the President spoke about the need for passing the Senate bill. When he was President, to his credit, he did everything he could to try to get it done, but Republicans would not follow the direction he felt we should go. Senate Republicans did follow that in the last vote. We had 68 votes, and 14 of my Republican colleagues voted with us. I appreciate that, and I appreciate what President Bush did to focus his attention on this again.

I appreciate all the groups around the country, from the chamber of commerce to other conservative groups, who are running paid advertisements on television saying they—the Republicans here in the House—should pass the legislation we passed here. The only Republicans who aren't yet convinced are in Washington in the House of Representatives. Republicans around the country believe it is important that we do this immigration reform legislation. As I indicated, 68 Senators voted for this historic reform, but our responsibility didn't end with that vote. It is our duty to convince our colleagues in the House that, yes, they should vote with us.

Bipartisan immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship makes economic sense as well as political sense. Unfortunately, over the last few weeks Speaker BOEHNER has taken a different route that is one of ignoring the needs of the American people. Rather than moving to the center and advancing a bill that would appeal to moderates on both sides of the Capitol, Speaker BOEHNER has repeatedly tried to pass legislation with only Republican votes.

The Hastert rule, named after a recent Republican Speaker—passing only

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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